

*News From U.S. Senator*

*North Dakota*

# Byron L. Dorgan

U.S. Senate " 713 Hart Building " Washington D.C. 20510

E-mail: [senator@dorgan.senate.gov](mailto:senator@dorgan.senate.gov) " Internet Web Page: <http://dorgansenate.gov>

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CONTACT: Barry E. Piatt

or Dana McCallum

PHONE: 202-224-2551

## **DORGAN SAYS BUREAU OF PRISONS WILL CHANGE POLICY THAT ALLOWED CONVICTED KILLER TIMOTHY McVEIGH TO APPEAR ON NATIONAL TV SHOW**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — Convicted killers like Timothy McVeigh are going to find it more difficult to “advance their agenda of violence” in prime time national TV interviews, U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) said Friday. Dorgan said the Justice Department has informed him the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) will change the way it implements the policy that allowed convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh to be interviewed on the national prime time CBS network television program “*60 Minutes*.”

The Federal Bureau of Prisons “intends to impose far greater restrictions on media interviews with death row inmates in the future,” Justice Department officials have told Dorgan.

“The news media, of course, has a right to request an interview with anybody, but I think the Federal Bureau of Prisons has an obligation and responsibility to be more thoughtful in how it responds to those requests,” Dorgan said Friday. “They need to give some thought to whether granting the request is going to simply give a convicted killer a soap box from which to continue to advance his or her agenda of violence. I’m glad they recognize the need for change.”

Dorgan objected in March to McVeigh’s prime time interview, saying it was inappropriate for federal officials to approve and help arrange it. He said it went “well beyond” what the Supreme Court has ruled is required to comply with McVeigh’s free speech rights and news media free press rights regarding coverage of the federal prison system and those within it.

“When Mr. McVeigh was judged guilty and sentenced to death for murdering 168 innocent victims at the Oklahoma Federal Building, he lost his right to make appearances on prime time television shows,” Dorgan wrote in a letter to FBOP Director Kathleen Hawk Sawyer following the interview. “The American people have a right to expect that the incarceration of a convicted killer will not only remove him physically from society, but will also prevent him from further intrusion in our lives through television interviews and from using those forums to advance his agenda of violence.”

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